FLORIDA SKIP

VOL. 33 NO. 9 THE ALL-FLORIDA AMATEUR RADIO PUBLICATION JULY 1991 75 Cents

FCC Survey Seeks to Link Amateur Power, RFI

Members of the West Palm Beach Amateur Radio Club (4HAW) man their booth at the South Florida Fair in West Palm Beach this year. (photo by W4KOG.)

The Fox Hunt

A warm summer evening it was, though the billowing fog made it seem like a misty morning. John, K3OWZ, hoped silently to himself that the fog would dissipate, for if it didn't, this hunt was over before it started. You see, Jerry, W3STA, owner and driver of what we hoped would be the first mobile to find the fox that evening (we are allowed to dream, you know!) becomes totally disoriented in fog and would have to slowly and carefully return home, thus dashing our hopes of victory two months in a row.

QSY BACK PAGE

COMING EVENTS

Jax Ama/computer Show. Aug. 3 & 4, 1991
Melbourne Hamfest Sept. 13 & 14th
Lake County Hamfest Eustis, Nov. 2
FGCARC Suncoast Convention Nov. 23 & 24
Bradford ARC Hamfest, Starke Oct. 26
Okeechobbee Hamfest, Dec. 7
Miami HAMBOREE, Feb. 8 & 9, 1992
Pensacola Hamfest, Feb. 15th
Note: Advise us of your dates ASAP. Editor

The Federal Communications Commission has released data gathered during its Feb. 26-27 Amateur Power Project (see *The ARRL Letter*, Apr. 18, 1991, and June *QST*, p 9) and has concluded that:

- "Most amateurs do not operate at the minimum [power] required by the rules;
- Operating powers of 100 watts or less can cause interference;
- Simply reducing the transmitter power does not alleviate interference in most cases."

In its instructions for the survey to field offices the FCC stated only one purpose, "to see if [amateur radio stations] are using minimum operating power as required by Section 97.313(a) of the rules."

But the Commission's executive summary of the study, just released, added an additional purpose, to "see if there is a link between operating power and interference to home electronic entertainment equipment."

Three methods were used to select the 209 amateur stations that were subsequently observed:

Method A was to visit a station for which a consumer complaint had been received by the Commission (31 stations);

Method B was to select a station that was being "monitored in operation" (42 stations); and

Method C was a random selection by various means (133 stations).

FCC field offices were instructed to visit the amateur stations and to "rate the quality of communications as though you were the other amateur." Following a power measurement, the operators were asked to reduce their power by half and to continue or reestablish the QSO, whereupon the FCC field office personnel again would rate the "quality of communication."

Power reductions ranged from 1500/525 watts (on 20 meters) to 8/3 watts (on 6 meters). This latter measurement was taken at a station creating RFI; the interference was observed dropping from "heavy to light."

In most cases, reducing output power by half or more resulted in little or no loss of communications, by Commission staffers' reckoning. The data released by the Commission, however, does not indicate the *type* of contacts being made — local or DX? Strong signal or weak? Level of interference from adjacent stations? Mode of transmission?

In 23 cases where RFI was observed, reductions in power resulted in less interference in 10 cases, in no change in 11 cases, and RFI actually was observed to *increase* at the lower power level in two cases.

In other cases no interference was checked for or none was observed.

Interference — where found — was spread among all bands 80-6 meters. Of the 209 station visits and subsequent

QSY back page.

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DEADLINE: 8th of month in P.O. Box 501, Miami Springs, FL 33266.

(See Advertising Rates in Hambar Section)

SILENT KEYS

We are deeply sorry to report the passing of the following Florida amateurs. May they R. I. P. Editor

W4NFK	Carl Treece	Pompano Beach
WA4GCF	Edward W. Murphy	Leesburg
KA4AUZ	Max Mosler	Glen Ridge
KA4MYZ	Carl Fobes	Jacksonville
K4CY	Al Vesce	Brooksville
K4IY	Scott Magness	Ocala
WD4ETE	John Evans	Jacksonville
KA3 PCG	Dennis F. Manning	Ellenton
WA4AXB	Eugene Maineri	Lutz
KB4DOF	Ernie Semsky	Deland
KF4FK	Robert A. Mickelberry	Zephyrhills
K8VHV	Merton W. Beaubien	Port Richey

FIRST EDITION 220 METER REPEATER MAP

We are happy to announce the 1st Edition of our new 220 meter map. Editor Harlan J. Cohn, W4UIM, Miami, FL. did an excellent job with the layout and research. Harlan was the Editor of the 440 Map also. The map, like all others is 11 by 17 inches printed on 50 pound lite blue paper. Each city has a box showing the 220 repeater frequencies in black ink. It also has a complete list of all frequencies boxed on the left side to find which city has which frequency. The price is the same as our 144 and 440 maps 25 cents each with your Self Addressed Stamped Envelope (SASE) No. 10 (business size) to 220 Map Florida Skip, Box 501, Miami Springs, FL 33266.

YOUR HAM LICENSE

When was the last time you looked at your amateur license? Do you know when it expires? You should! Even with a two-year grace period, time slips by fast. If you do not know when your ticket runs out, I would suggest you find it now and make a note of it.

This all leads up to one point, if you need a FCC 610 Form Florida Skip can supply you with one or two provided you send us a number 10 (10-inch) evelope, self-addressed and stamped to: Skip 610, P.O. Box 501, Miami Springs, FL 33266.

The Miami FCC Field Office was kind enough to send us about 200 forms recently to pass out as needed. Play it safe . . . check your license now.

TO THE EDITOR

LETTER FROM RUSSIA

Dear Elizabeth:

First of all, I would like to thank you for your wonderful idea to reward wives of radio amateurs for their participation (if any) and their help to make our hobby much more comfortable and pleasurable. Well done, indeed!

Unfortunately, I have not heard about your award before, though I have been in the air since 1977. Well, later is better, than never.

By the way, Elizabeth, I'm a member of the ARRL and I worked in first ever Soviet-American DX-pedition in 1989. We used special call US0SU (it was my idea of such callsign) and now prefix "US" is very popular for other American-Soviet DX-peditions.

There is a picture of my shack and a short story about me in QST 89, September, page 44.

Well, I would like to make something pleasurable for my wife as well. So, please send your award to her: Lida Solovieva, P.O. Box 190, Magadan, 685000, USSR.

Enclosed are: five IRCS and some stamps.

P.S.: Elizabeth, send your award till July, please, because July 4th is Lida's birthday.

I wish you the best of everything and awfully hopeful to meet you in the air some day. 73 till then.

— Take care,
Victor

Editor's Note: Sent number 1702 on May 20th.

Andy Clark

Dear Editor:

This is a brief note to thank you for the opportunity to write this article. Bob Watson isn't feeling well and I appreciate his encouragement, confidence and trust.

I'm new at this, although I used to put out a four-page newsletter each month for our business in California. Lori has been a great help. She has introduced me to the proper form and since my computer isn't the best speller in the world, I have relied on her to assure the accuracy of the spelling.

Please note that I have changed the title of the article. I did this for several reasons:

First, this area is better known as the Panhandle to people all over the state.

Second, it may stir curiosity. New things seem to attract attention. I hope this will give way to loyalty because of the content.

If there is a reason to retain the original title, you won't offend me if you change it back to the original title.

What I have done is to contact people I know with different radio interests and asked for items of interest. In this manner, I hope to make the articles represent a broader spectrum. I am endeavoring to contact people in other areas of the Panhandle so that I can represent everyone from Tallahassee to Pensacola.

If Murphy permits it should again be an integral part of Florida Skip.

Thanks again for the opportunity.

— "Matt" Matthew, KC4RKJ
P.O. Box 1439
Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459

Editor's Note: Your column looks great. Welcome aboard, Matt.

— 73,
Andy Clark

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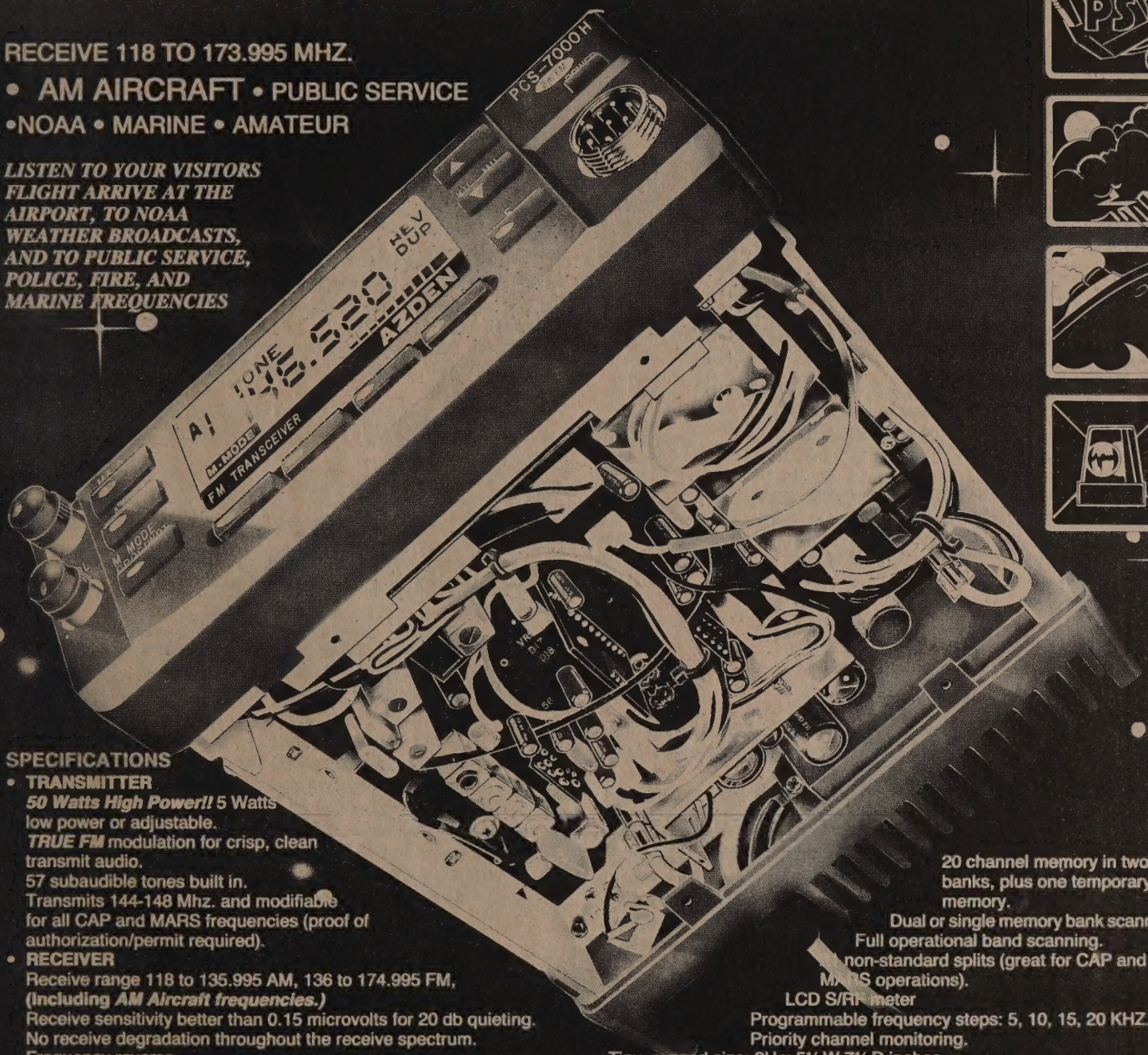

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TRAFFIC HOUNDS — MAY 1991

By K4ZK, STM South Florida

NET	QNI	AVG.	QTC	AVG.	SESSIONS	MGR	QTC/QNI
SWFTN	575	30.8	759	28.1	27	K4FQU	1.32
QFN	865	14.2	650	10.5	62	AA4HT	0.75
FPTN	1,309	42.2	373	12.0	31	WB4WYG	0.28
SEFTN	1,253	40.4	330	10.6	31	KD4GR	0.26
NFPN	2,011	64.8	312	10.1	31	WA4NDA	0.15
FMTN	587	18.9	289	9.3	31	W4NFK	0.49
TPTN	446	14.4	222	7.6	31	WX4J	0.49
GN	202	6.5	141	4.5	31	W4DL	0.69
FAST	422	6.8	129	2.1	62	WD4KBW	0.30
QFNS	241	7.7	110	3.5	31	KC4FL	0.45
FMSN	279	9.0	103	3.4	31	N4KFU	0.36
SPARC	502	16.2	37	1.2	31	N4ZMQ	0.07
GCVTN	716	23.1	31	1.0	31	N4ZYB	0.04
PBTN	581	21.5	29	1.1	27	WA4RUE	0.04
DEN	510	102.0	15	3.0	5	WD4ITI	0.02
AIN	61	15.3	13	3.3	4	WA4PFK	0.21
ENMC	65	13.0	2	0.4	5	K4ZK	0.03

Total QTC: 3,545 • Average QTC/QNI: .35

LATE TRAFFIC HOUNDS FOR APRIL, 1991

PBTN	675	25.9	17	0.6	26	WA4RUE

TOP TWENTY TRAFFICERS — MAY 1991

By WA4PFK and WA4PUP

STATION	TOTAL	STATION	TOTAL
1. W3CUL	3,036	11. K4SCL	329
2. K4FQU	1,343	12. KA4FZI	328
3. W3VR	1,174	13. WA4QXT	268
4. KB6ECH	1,102	14. KD4GR	230
5. WB0HOX	507	15. AA4HT	190
6. WA9VND	501	16. K4ZK	158
7. WA4PFK	426	17. K4IA	145
8. WA4EIC	412	18. AA4CH	144
9. N4SS	392	19. WA4NDA	135
10. KB4WBY	332	20. K3KT	128

S.S.B. NETS

By Joe Scungio, N4KFU

From Bill, WB4WYG, FPTN Net Manager: May net statistics were similar to June except that traffic slipped to about half passed during April. That is to be expected.

Net check-ins were 1,309 with 20 stations checking in 80 percent or better of net sessions. This represents 53 percent of net membership and the following stations checked in 100 percent of net sessions: W4BKC, WD4DAH, WA4EIC, KB4FIY, N4GMU, N4KFU, K4KIC, KB4MON, K4NKA, KB4RTG, K4SJA, WB4TOV, WA9VND, KI4VT, WB4WYG and WB4ZVD. In fact many of these stations have been doing this for many months. Congratulations and it sure is nice to hear all those familiar voices every morning. An average of 42.2 stations checked into the net each session.

The net manager would like to thank all the NCS's that have continually met their daily assignments and the reliefs who are always ready to jump right in and help out. That gives the net members confidence that the net will be adequately directed each and every day. My heartfelt thanks to all.

WA4EYU will return from an extended trip probably about mid-June. KB4FIY has headed for the hills of North Carolina and WA4QXT is out looking for a replacement for "Fargo" his seeing eye companion. K4GEW is spending the summer in North Florida, WB4TZR will soon make the trek to Chicago to visit his old home scenes and WA4RUE is recovering from an operation that required a hospital stay.

It was with great sadness that we received the news that Carl, WA4NFK, became a "silent key." This fine fellow could be heard on many of the traffic nets and will be sorely missed. The net observed a period of silence in memory of this fine gentlemen.

You are invited to become a part of the NTS system by checking into FPTN. FPTN meets daily at 7:00 a.m. You can learn about traffic handling, get questions answered regarding the Florida Amateur Radio Tech Society, all kinds of trivia and on top of that have fun.

—73's,
Bill

From Earl, K4FQU, SWFTN Net Manager: The net did rather well during May.

QNI was 575 for an average of 21.3 per session and QTC was 759 for an average of 28.11 per session. QNI remained about the same, but the QTC sure jumped and that's what the nets for. The QTC jumped 200 percent of last year at this time. I don't know where the people went, but 787 people checked into the net during May of last year.

June is upon us and it's time to elect a net manager. The net is open for nominations and the elections will be held about June 28th with the elected person taking over in July. I will be a contender for the position this year.

June brings Father's Day which will generate traffic and the ARRL Field Day. Field day is always a good time and its good practice working crowded bands.

—73's to all,
Earl

From Rip, AA4HT, QFN Net Manager: As usual the summer traffic and check-ins dropped. Traffic dropped an average of 10.5 messages per session, compared to the 14 messages per session noted in April.

WC4D, OB, checked in 100 percent on the late session in May while WA4EIC, WA4PFK and KA4FZI missed only one session. Good job folks!

Nice to have WD4DNC checking into the net again. Barry lives in Jacksonville and we often need help to handle traffic for that area.

Welcome back to KB9LT. As you know, Cotton underwent surgery in May and has now recovered enough to rejoin the net. Understand his radio is sick now and he is using hs mobile rig temporarily.

It was with great sadness that we received the news that Carl Treece, W4NFK, became a "silent key." The net will certainly miss Carl.

The net needs someone to take the place of the RN5 representative on Saturdays. WC4D has been filling in temporarily and I certainly appreciate his help, but I know he will be happy to be replaced. If you are interested please let me know.

—73's,
Rip

From John, KC4FL, QFNS Net Manager: QFNS stats showed a QNI of 227 for an average of 7.6 check-ins per session. QTC's were 110 for an average of 3.5 per session. QND was 710 for an average of 23.7 per session.

There were no new stations checking in during the month.

Conditions were better, but could be better.

QFNS is looking for a new manager as of July.

—73's,
John

From Dan, W4DL, Gator Net Manager: The net is free of AMTOR qrm, but is still plagued by poor conditions.

Chris, N4EKC has left his Merritt Island QTH for the North until late June.

Ever since the Tampa Fair Mae, W3CUL and Al, W3VR have had rig trouble. Al is still waiting for his line switch for the Kenwood.

Andy Clark, W4IYT, is teaching TV Show Production at Miami Springs Senior High. They produce at least two shows a week on Channel 50.

It was with great sadness that we received the news that Carl Treece, W4NFK, became a "silent key." This fine gentleman and traffic handler will be sorely missed.

Dan, W4DL and his XYL Atletha KF4PR visited Bonnie, WB4FSF and her husband in Sanford. On return home I found my car and antenna had collapsed due to too much water.

The net missed Dick, N2AOX. He had to take his XYL to the Mayo Clinic due to a heart problem and she is reported to be feeling better. However, Dick's Kenwood is back at the factory and he is working with a backup.

—73's,
Dan

From Joe, N4KFU, FMNS Net Manager: FMNS slowed down like all the other nets do at about this time of the year. QNI went down to 279 for an average of nine per session and QTC's were 103 for an average of 3.4. QND was 556 for an average of 17.9 per session. That is quite a drop.

Besides people heading North or on vacation, band conditions, which started out good turned out to be quite erratic. This will surely cut down on net activity.

Don't forget net elections for July.

The net welcomed KC4TNI, Art, who volunteered to be Tuesday QFN representative. Additionally, KC4ECA, John, switched with WC4D and is now the Friday night representative while WC4D is the Thursday night representative. Otherwise all assignments remain the same.

I wish to thank all the stations that jump in and volunteer when an NCS or representative does not show up.

With the thunder bumbers almost a daily occurrence, we will see more of this. This is another reason for the reduction in traffic activity. Don't take a chance and fire up the rig cause all it takes is one hit. In fact, during one week I was able to check in only once because of lightning storms.

KC4ECA has taken my net reports when able and I certainly thank him for that.

—73's,
Joe

PUSH FOR 40-METER SHIFT CONTINUES

Advisory groups studying the question of 40-meter interference between amateur radio operators and international broadcast stations continue to recommend that the 40-meter ham band be shifted downward 100 KHz to 6,900-7,200 KHz with broadcasters getting 7,200-7,525 KHz.

At present, hams and broadcasters share 7,100-7,300 KHz, with the result that much of 40 meters is unusable at night for hams.

The FCC reportedly favors the idea as do many hams so chances are good the idea will be introduced at the 1992 World Administrative Radio Conference (WARC) where delegates from many nations will vote on the proposal.

The latest group to comment favorable was the Informal Working Group of the FCC Industry Advisory Committee. In other resolutions, the group favors the conversion of most international broadcast transmissions from full-carrier AM to SSB.

—From NOFARS Balance Modulator

NEW HAM LICENSE FORMS BEING ISSUED

On April 22nd, the FCC implemented a new laser printed amateur radio license. The 8-1/2 by 11-inch document includes two licenses on a greenish tinted background. One license is similar to the older license (except that the printing is much clearer) since it is designed to be folded and carried in a wallet. The other license is a five- by seven-inch document suitable for framing.

Those with old-style licenses are not allowed to ask for replacements although upon renewal, each applicant will receive a new set of licenses. Also, those who upgrade or change address will get new licenses.

—From NOFARS Balance Modulator

CLIP & SAVE

FLORIDA TRAFFIC NETS

Net	Frequency	(eastern)
Florida Phone TFC Net (FPTN)	3940	0700
Gator Net (GN)	7068	0830
Florida Midday TFC Net (FMTN)	7247.5	1145
Tropical Phone TFC Net (TPTN)	3940/7243	1700
Florida Medium Speed TFC Net (FMSN)	3651/7061	1750
South Florida SSB TFC Net (FAST/E)	3940	1800
South Florida SSB TFC Net (FAST/L)	3940	2230
Northern Florida Phone Net (NFPN)	3950	1830/1930
All-Florida CW TFC Net (QFN/E)	3651/7061	1900
All-Florida CW TFC Net (QFN/L)	3651	2200
All-Florida Slow CW TFC NET (QFNS)	3715	2000
Florida Public Operations Net (FPON)	3908	1630
ARRL Information Net (AIN)	3940	0730 (Saturday)
Northern Florida Emergency Net	3950	0900 (Monday-Saturday)

Note 1: Southern Florida Emergency Coordinators and ARES members should monitor 3940 or 7247 KHz in addition to their local net in the event of an emergency. The Emergency Operations Schedule for Florida Section Nets will be followed if there is a section-wide emergency situation.

Note 2: The ARRL Net Directory provides a more detailed listing of local and special interest nets.

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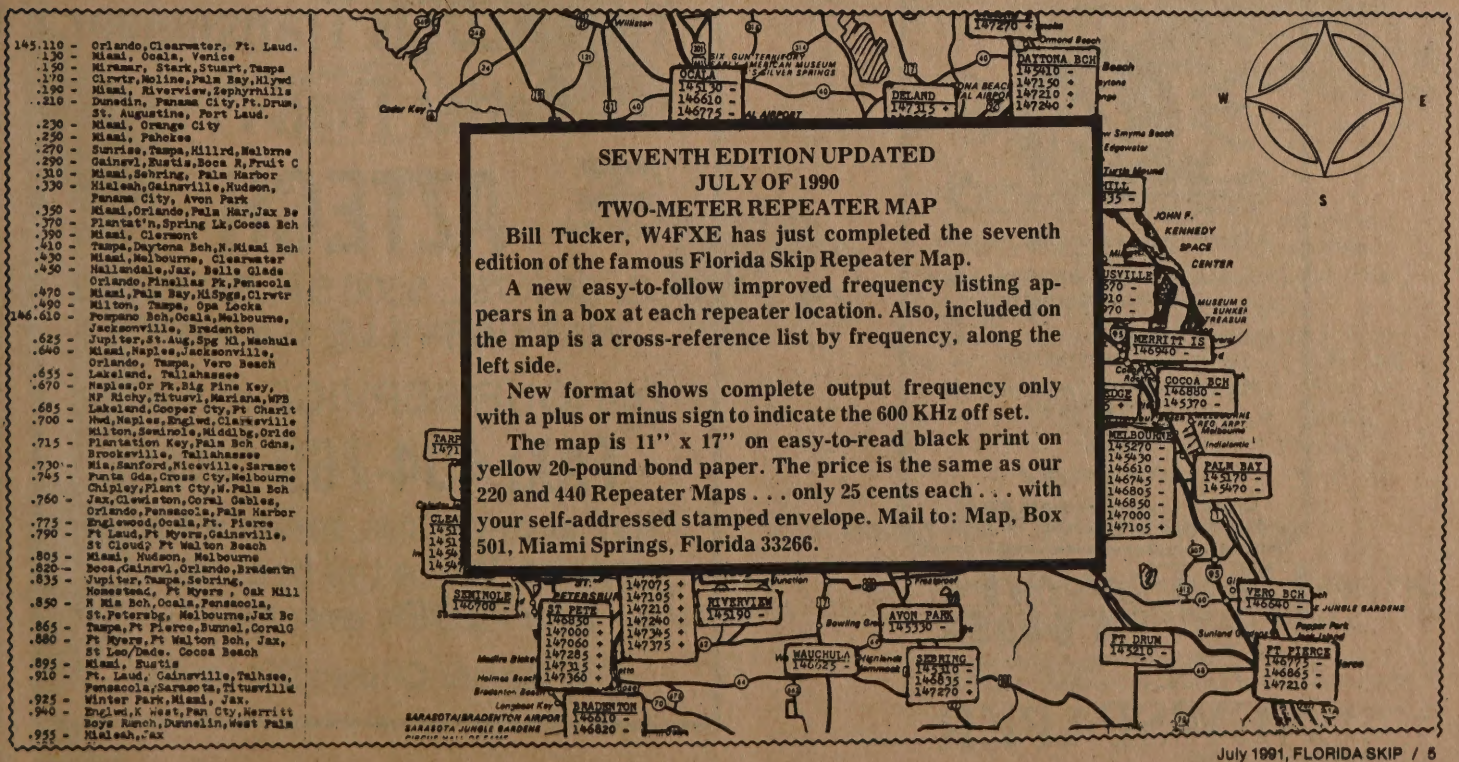

SEVENTH EDITION UPDATED
JULY OF 1990
TWO-METER REPEATER MAP

Bill Tucker, W4FXE has just completed the seventh edition of the famous Florida Skip Repeater Map.

A new easy-to-follow improved frequency listing appears in a box at each repeater location. Also, included on the map is a cross-reference list by frequency, along the left side.

New format shows complete output frequency only with a plus or minus sign to indicate the 600 KHz off set.

The map is 11" x 17" on easy-to-read black print on yellow 20-pound bond paper. The price is the same as our 220 and 440 Repeater Maps . . . only 25 cents each . . . with your self-addressed stamped envelope. Mail to: Map, Box 501, Miami Springs, Florida 33266.

SENDING FOR Q.S.L. CARDS

By Tom Lewis, N4TL

AA4MI wrote and pointed out a correction for last month's article. The cost of sending QSL cards via the ARRLs outgoing QSL service is $2.00 per pound of cards (which is about 150 cards), and not $1.00 as stated last month.

There are a number of ways to send QSL cards. One way, discussed last month, is by using the Bureau. When a QSL card is desired faster than what the Bureau offers, one can send direct to the DX station. His address can be obtained from a DX call-book. The card is sent to the DX station with an SAE. A SAE is a self-addressed envelope. It is customary to add something to cover the cost of the postage back. A DX station could go broke sending QSL cards direct to stations around the world.

The post office sells IRCs that can be used to pay for return postage. An IRC is an international reply coupon. The DX station can turn them in at his post office for one surface mail stamp. It may take from two to six or more IRCs for the return postage back via airmail. The first few pages of the DX call-book will list how many IRCs are required for air mail from a DX country.

Many amateurs who are QSL managers have IRCs for sale. They usually will sell them for less than the post office charges. By stopping at a DX booth at a hamfest one can usually find someone selling IRCs. Using IRCs is an expensive way to get a QSL card.

Many amateurs will send a green stamp (dollar) or two to pay for the return postage. The cost of postage from many European countries to the USA is more than $1.00, so $1.00 may not be enough. You may receive your card back via the Bureau.

It is better to use a SASE for the foreign country. With a DX stamp it is possible to send the DX station an SASE that is usable in their country. This makes it easy for the DX station to send a card back to you. He does not have to bother putting a stamp on your envelope. There are at least two DX stamps services that sell foreign stamps. Send an SASE to either of these two and they will send back information on their service.

Will J. Plum, 12 Glenn Road, Flemington, NJ 08822.

J.E. Mackey, P.O. Box 270569, West Hartford, CT 06127-0569.

More on QSLing next month.

25 Years a Ham?

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P.C.A.R.S. PROPAGATIONS

By Gerry Wentz, KC4EHT

The recently elected President of PCARS Jack Taylor, W4CWB unexpectedly resigned at the regular June 10th meeting citing personal reasons for his decision. Jack's position was taken over immediately by Tony Campagna, AB4VR the vice-president pending a meeting of the Board of Directors to decide on a replacement.

The Board of Directors called an emergency meeting for the following Friday and voted to retain Tony as the president for the remainder of the vacated term of Jack. Mike Perry, AB4GI, currently a director, was appointed to the post of vice-president and yours truly Gerry Wentz, KC4EHT was appointed a director to fill the shoes of Mike.

Rich Patisaul, NS4S submitted a Letter of Resignation to the Board of Directors as the custodian of the packet digipeater. Rich stated that his resignation will be effective as of June 1st and unless a new custodian is found by that time, the repeater must be shut down.

Rich said that he had relocated the repeater and got it operating on both frequencies as requested and had served as its custodian for one year. Rich felt that it was time someone else assumed responsibility for its operation and control since he had fulfilled his obligation. Eric Smitt, K9ES, a highly knowledgeable packet operator, took over its operation prior to the June 1st deadline.

PCARS owes Rich a debt of gratitude for his fine job and service to the club.

The Melbourne Hamfest is approaching fast and I know that many of the **Florida Skip** readers are looking forward to it. Many of you will want to note that the hamfest will be held September 13th-15th instead of the first weekend after Labor Day as in previous years. Scheduling conflicts necessitated the change in dates.

Renovations to the auditorium have also created some problems with space so individuals reserving tables are advised to reserve early to ensure getting a table in a desirable location. The first room on the northeast side of the auditorium will be unavailable due to construction, however, table rearrangement and use of the stage should preclude a shortage of table space.

The Platinum Coast Amateur Radio Society meets at 7:30 p.m. the second Monday of each month at the Red Cross Building on Hickory Street in Melbourne. Interested persons are cordially invited to attend and, doughnuts and coffee are standard fare at the meetings.

BRIEFS

- On May 20 The Federal Register published an editorial amendment to FCC Rules Section 97.303(b), effectively eliminating, as of June 28, the need for radio amateurs operating on the 220-MHz band to protect the government radiolocation service from harmful interference. This in effect raises amateurs' status on the band.

ARRL Letter May

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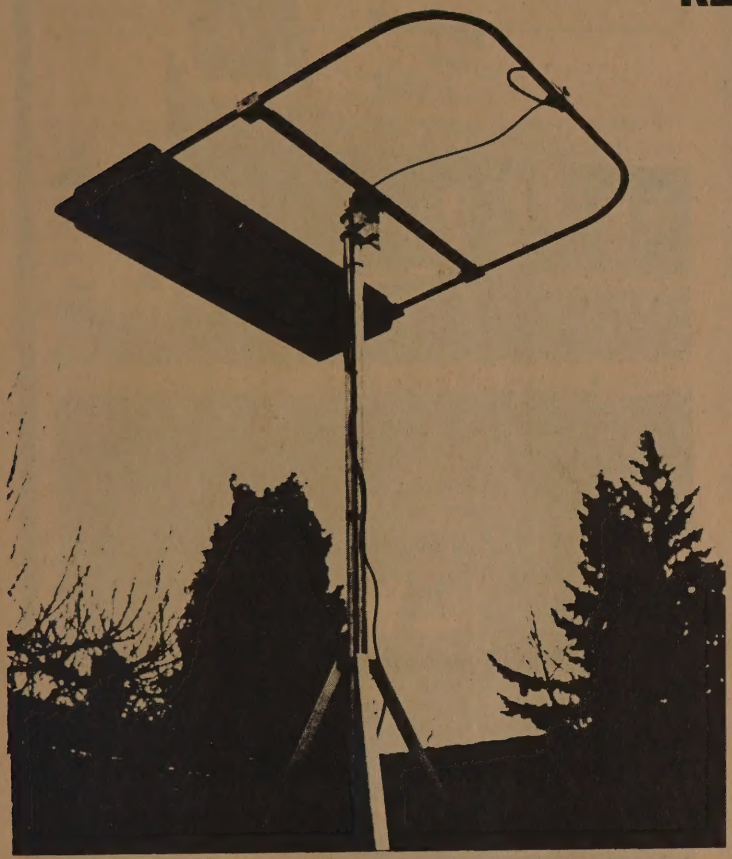


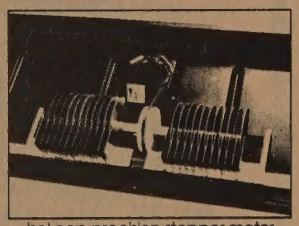
Once again AEA has achieved a significant engineering breakthrough with its high-performance, low profile HF IsoLoop antenna. Performance isn't compromised by its small size. Operate your favorite HF band (14 to 30 MHz frequency coverage) from areas with restrictive zoning ordinances or apartments and condos. Or take it with you on vacation. . . it's the ideal go-anywhere portable antenna. And it's the only antenna you need to cover 14 to 30 MHz. ONE antenna instead of numerous dipoles and without any traps!

150 Watts. Rated up to 150 watts, the IsoLoop transmits and receives on any frequency between 14 to 30 MHz. When mounted with the loop in the horizontal plane, the radiation pattern is omni-directional and horizontally polarized, with the gain of a dipole. Maximum radiation is at low angles which is ideal for DX operation. The IsoLoop may also be mounted with the loop in the vertical plane to provide a null in a desired direction. Tuning is provided by a precision stepper-motor and a small remote control box, the LC-1.

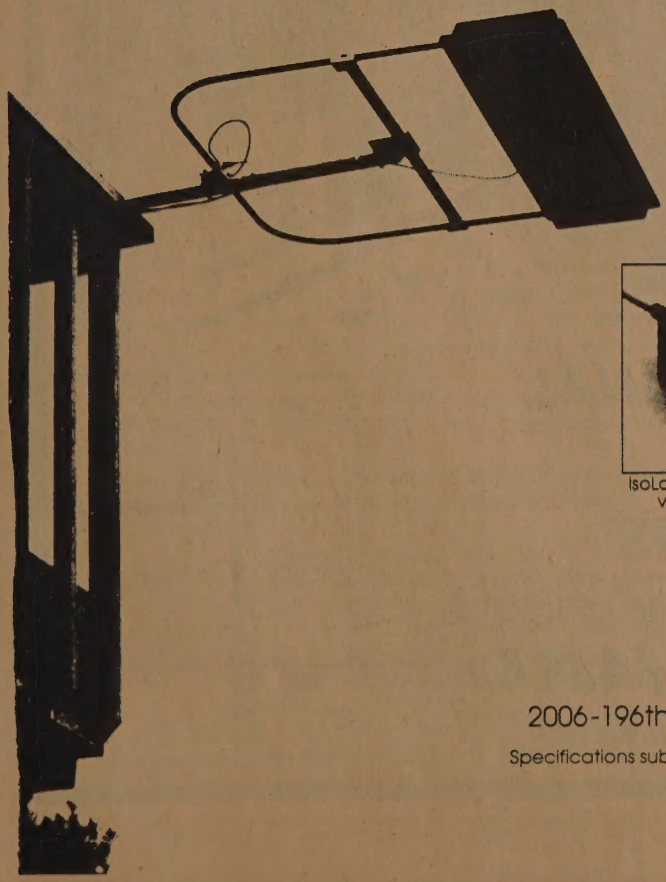
The IsoLoop does not need ground radials and its balanced, shielded feed-loop isolates the feedline from the antenna. The IsoLoop is well-isolated from the feedline. Like AEA's Isopole antennas, your signal is radiated by the antenna and not the feedline. With end-fed antennas, the outside of the coax becomes part of the antenna, resulting in noise and computer hash pickup and increased TVI problems.

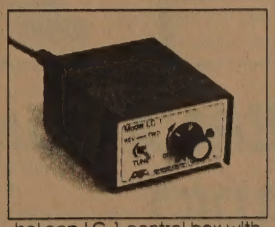
High-Q Design. One of the unique features of the IsoLoop is its inherent High-Q. The IsoLoop can be considered a very sharp tunable filter that radiates. The narrow bandwidth suppresses harmonics from your transmitter reducing TVI problems. It also attenuates out-of-band signals from nearby transmitters that could overload your receiver.

Compact. The IsoLoop is square, with rounded corners, and measures 32 inches on a side and weighs only 12 pounds. Because of the IsoLoop's small size, it makes a perfect attic or balcony antenna. It's also excellent for portable operation, recreational vehicles or camp-site use. A rotator is not necessary when used in the omni-directional, horizontally polarized mode.



IsoLoop precision stepper motor provides accurate tuning.





IsoLoop LC-1 control box with variable speed tuning.

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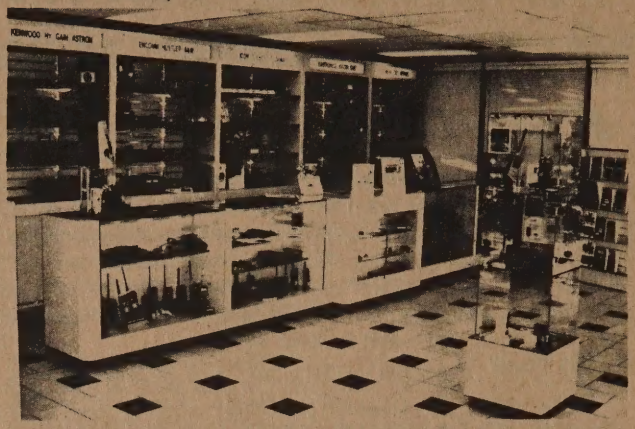

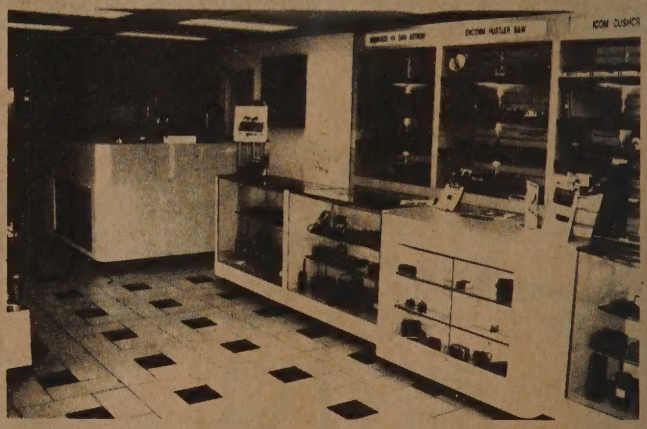

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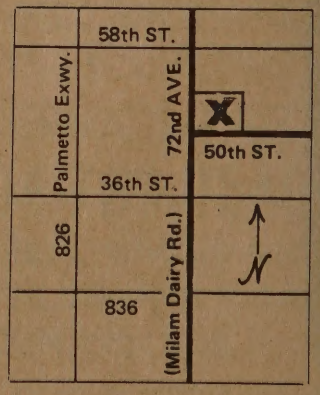

QCWA, Inc.

FLORIDA Q.C.W.A. NEWS
Edited by Eli Nannis, K4JMH

FLORIDA STATE Q.C.W.A. NEWS
Edited by Eli Nannis, K4JMH

Many chapters are now having informal meetings during the summer and no business transacted, however, I would still like your reports on these meetings if only a few lines.

It might be a good time to sign up new members who live in Florida all year round and invite guests to these meetings.

Also, get together with other chapters in your area and swap stories of the good old days. At least once a year Chapter 23 and 91 hold joint meetings with the Society of Wireless Pioneers Chapter X.

This years' Annual Spring Banquet in Washington was on April 6th. The featured speaker was Astronaut Ron Parise, WA4SIR, payload specialist on the Space Shuttle STS-35.

QCWA National President Harry Dannals, W2DH presented the President's Award to Ambassador Armin Meyer, W3ACE in recognition of many years of dedication to QCWA and his accomplishments as a true international ambassador of amateur radio. Mr. Meyer has held a number of ambassadorial assignments throughout the world.

Also, the Foundation of Amateur Radio recognized the outstanding effort of Hugh Turnbull, W3ABC and his committee in connection with administering the FAR Scholarship effort for a number of years.

SUNCOAST CHAPTER

Our chapter held the last regular luncheon meeting on May 2nd at the House of Chong in Sarasota and there were 55 members and guests present.

The slate of officers for the next term are: President Art Miligan, W8KW; Vice President John Karban, W3IGC; Treasurer Larry Pearsall, W9FDY; and Secretary Lloyd Pfahler, W8FKL.

Art, W8KW then gave a few remarks as to his plans for the future as to programs and participation by members.

Bob Bookwalter, W4NWF advised that the future informal luncheons will be held at the Trolley Station in Venice, the first Thursday in June, July, August and September at 11:30 a.m. All are welcome.

PELICAN CHAPTER

The May meeting was opened by Vice President Ralph Luedke, K9MOR at the Home Style Buffet in St. Petersburg. Bill, W4TAD presented pictures to the chapter which he took at our last meeting. They will be put into a scrap book and some pictures will be sent to QCWA, Inc.

Don Bice, W4PCO advised that he visited Reg Inveson, K4QZ who is now 92 years old and has been licensed for 76 years maybe the first ham that was ever shut down for interference by the FCC. It was said that Reg's spark rig caused interference with ship communications on the Great Lakes.

For the program that day, each member was requested to give his most embarrassing experience to amateur radio and some of them were quite funny.

It was recommended that we meet during the summer months for breakfast and informal luncheon meetings each month.

We will sure miss Paul Turner, W1DLP who is moving out of the area. He was always there, willing and able to fill in on whatever chore the occasion demanded. He was president of Gator and a former secretary of Pelican. He will be moving into the Citrus Chapter area . . . so they better grab him. His address is: 1550 Gay Drive, Number 206, Winter Park, FL 32789.

— Reported by Jay Strom, K9BSL

SOUTHEAST CHAPTER

Twenty-five members and guests attended a regular meeting of the chapter on Saturday, May 18th at Denny's Restaurant.

Congratulations are extended to Al Wilcox, W4ELR ex 2BEL who received his 70-year award.

Pelican QCWA Chapter line up 250 YEARS : L to R. W4PUZ 70 years, K4HCV 65, KF4DI 60 and W3AA with 55 years. These awards were presented by Wes Randles W4COW, National Treasurer of QCWA recently. (Photo by K9BSL. Congratulations Ole Timers ! !

The chapter is saddened to announce that member Carl Engman, W2IHH became a "silent key" on May 2nd.

Harry Pilafian, W4SQG discussed a recent letter from Headquarters Staff Member Art Kay, W5APX outlining the provisions of a bill introduced in Congress entitled "Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 1991" which is designed to prevent further loss of existing spectrum to the amateur radio services. Included in the letter from Art Kay is a sample copy of a letter each member can send to their congressional representative supporting the provisions of the act and urging their representatives to sponsor the bill.

Jim Puglise, K9CQ Civil Air Patrol (CAP) representative gave a very interesting slide presentation and discussion of search and rescue operations by the CAP and other governmental agencies, and the role that ham radio and satellite communications play in these activities.

Bud Fraizer and yours truly split the 50/50.

The chapter meets every third Saturday of the month at Denny's Restaurant. We offer outstanding ham camaraderie and interesting guest speakers.

— Reported by Sid Wolfeld, KJ4AS

PALM BEACH CHAPTER

Our chapter had their regular monthly meeting on April 30th at their new meeting place, the Picadilly Restaurant in Lake Park. Thirty members and guests attended, and a good time was enjoyed by all. Everyone seemed to be especially pleased with the new meeting place.

Everyone should start getting their "white elephants" together for the upcoming auction.

The next meeting will be at the Picadilly on May 28th.

— Reported by Bob McDow, W4KOG

CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER

Frank Mason is home from the hospital and doing fine.

Norm Darch, W2HGV has his HF rig in the car and working well.

Danny Webber, W1PCD reports in for the summer from Maine. Others in the north who report in for the summer are: Dick Shave, VE3BIS; Carm Naylor, VE3EOX; Keith Laughlin, VE3OEE; plus the usual gang on 142.45 each Thursday at 12:30 p.m. QCWA Director and Chapter 107 members Walt Brink, W3WPY also checks in.

Don't forget to vote for all the QCWA candidates on the ballot.

Sparky, W4LHP gave Jim Gundry, W4JM much help in getting his tower down to repair the 18 MHz dipole.

Floyd Frisby, WB4RSC is living in Hilton, New York, which isn't all that bad, but he does miss the old gang.

Good attendance at the May luncheon with Bob Glamm, W9UGN telling of his Pearl Harbor adventures on December 17,

QSY P. 12 QCWA

FLORIDA ARMY M.A.R.S. — VIEWPOINT

By Lorraine S. Matthew, AAT4JK

"When in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the Separation.

"We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness . . ."

July 4, 1776: With these stirring words, and Colonial troops already in the field, the United States of America struggled to a birth of freedom and democracy unheard of before in human history. Throughout the 215 years that have followed since this document set the stage for our proud heritage, military men and women have been called to serve — called to preserve the freedoms we hold so dear.

1990-1991 saw our men and women called once again. With the all-encompassing communications, the entire world watched in awe as our military personnel efficiently and effectively stopped aggression which threatened the freedom-loving peoples everywhere.

The men and women of Florida Army MARS, too, were called and served tirelessly and effectively. High morale has been cited as a key factor in the quick victory in the Gulf fighting. Florida Army MARS transmitted much of that morale with tens of thousands of messages and phone patches. Proudly MARS contributed to the preservation of the freedoms envisioned by the framers of the Declaration of Independence.

Preparation and participation are key elements of MARS work for the continued security of our families, communities, state and nation. Preparation, of course, involves constant polishing of techniques and the learning of new ones. Daily, Florida Army MARS Nets have become valuable sources of information with lively discussion and good practice sessions.

In the MARS program, all modes of operation are encouraged. This encouragement was reflected in the activities offered on Armed Forces Day, May 18th. Several Florida Army MARS members took part using CW, crossband, RTTY and voice on several HF bands and at a variety of power levels. At least one member worked all services in locations coast-to-coast.

During the month of May, a strange call-sign entered several of the nets — TD4B. This call-sign belongs to Jack Wood who started out with Florida Army MARS as AAR4UA. He has been made the Training Director for Region Four based on his extensive background in the Army MARS program. He has been with Army MARS for 25 years during which time he has served 22 years in Army communications, eight of these years teaching radio telephone procedures (procedures indentical to the ones we use on the voice nets), one year attached to the Navy MARS program and one year in Germany serving as the European Army MARS Director. Jack comes to us extremely well qualified for his work as the Training Director and we welcome his advice.

Response to the Emergency/Disaster Preparedness Survey has been very positive. It is quite evident that Army MARS enjoys the membership of very talented and widely-experienced operators. While MARS is a communications unit only, and not a disaster control organization, the wide knowledge of its members could help advise other operators who might be called upon to provide needed communication.

MARS preparation and training does not only serve MARS. Our families and communities are well served by these factors. Many MARS members are involved in community roles. MARS will become involved in the emergency or disaster only after all

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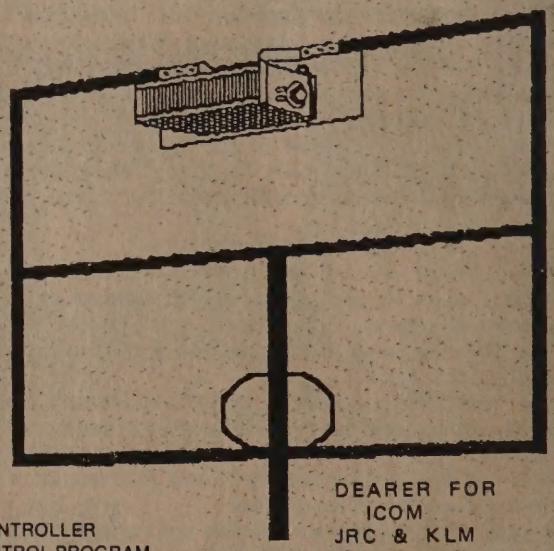

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civilian resources have been exhausted. With well trained and prepared operators, the community and state will be better able to handle whatever emergencies arise.

Florida Army MARS welcomes two new members. The new Training Officer is Larry Donnelly, AAT4UA and the new Packet Director is Joseph Reilly, AAT4UV.

"We, therefore, the Representative of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in General Congress, Assembled appealing to the Supreme Judge of the World for the Rectitude of our Intentions, do, in the Name and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly Publish and Declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be, Free and Independent States . . . "

Let freedom ring!

THE PANHANDLE AT A GLANCE
By "Matt" Matthew, KC4RKJ

My name is "Matt" (KC4RKJ). I live in Santa Rosa Beach. Bob Watson, W4DTV is a bit under the weather and has asked me to write this column.

As you know, Bob is very active in the VEC testing program. He also has a steady stream of visitors to his shack where he helps people get started in radio, tries to convince them that they need to be a member of MARS or help them get a commercial license. He is currently the President of the Twin Cities Amateur Radio Club and is one of the driving forces in the return of the 146.73 repeater. This constitutes only a few of his activities; so you can see he is busy.

The objective of this column is to make the reader aware of the varied activities being carried on in the Panhandle. I have asked for input from various hams in different facets of amateur radio to pass on information so others will know what is being done. If you have information that you think would be interesting, please contact me by mail, or via the N4RNM BBS, N4SGQ BBS or the W4ZBB BBS. My address is:

"Matt" Matthew
P.O. Box 1439
Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459

At this point I would ask you who are involved in clubs to let your President know that items of interest to the Panhandle should be forwarded to me by the 20th of the month.

Steve, N4RNM, chief engineer of 98 SURF-FM, has proposed setting up a VHF BBS using baud rate of 2400. The advantage of this will be to provide greater range with better signal quality using the same amount of power.

Steve said, "I have made arrangements to install a couple of two-meter 2400 Baud Rose switches that will cover a lot of the Panhandle. Site number one is on the 98 SURF-FM tower, which is in North Okaloosa County, near the Alabama State Line. Height above ground could go as high as 300 meters above sea level. As of this moment, height is stuck at 150 meters because that's all the hard line we have. Site number two is in far west Bay County, on the PBS Television transmitter tower. With these two switches installed, we could have 2400 baud coverage from about Blountstown west to the Alabama State Line."

At a packet meeting held at the PARC Clubhouse in Ft. Walton, he got approval for the use of the 145.69 frequency for this purpose. So far this is primarily a one-man project. That is not easy. Steve has a TNC and 150 meters of feed line on hand. He still needs feed line, antennas, etc. If you can help, contact Steve.

This copy of the **Florida Skip** will likely be issued after Field Day is over, but it appears that all the local clubs are ready for it this year. Crestview, the PARC Radio Club and, possibly, the Twin Cities Radio Club will participate.

I haven't heard what Pensacola or Panama City are planning, but I'm sure, as with others all over the Panhandle, they too, were involved.

Everyone owes it to himself to take part in at least one Field Day. Who knows when we will need the skills learned in practice?

I had an interesting talk with Bill; W4WIJ about DX. Bill, Hal,

QSY to P. 14

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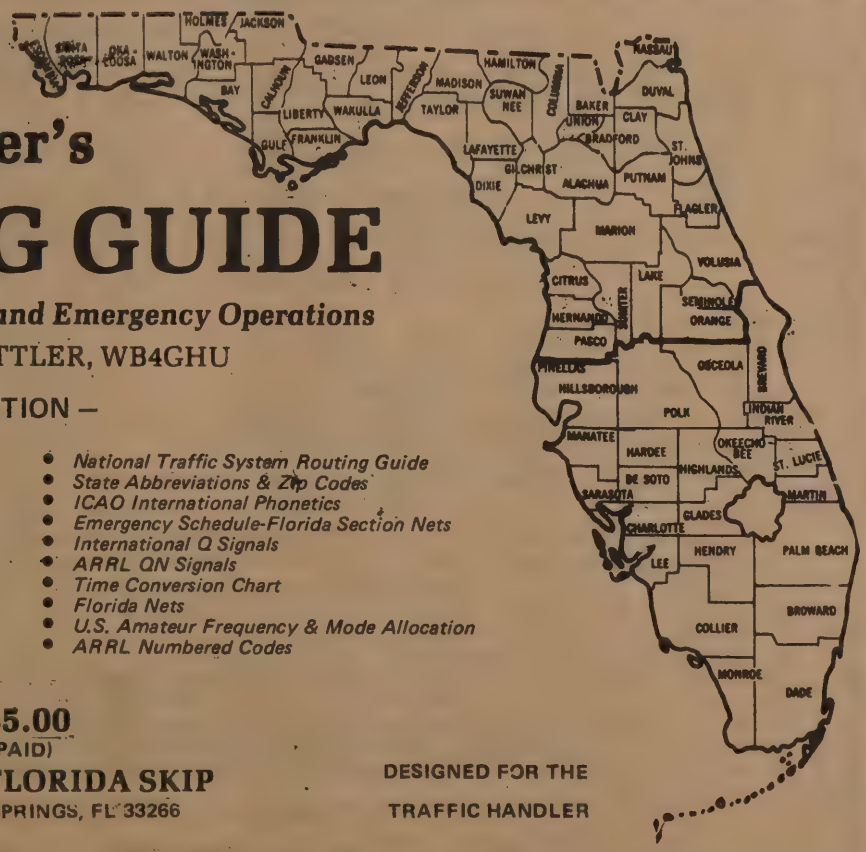

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- *Amateur Message Form*
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- *Northern Florida Counties & Seats*
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1941 and Svend Gormsen, W4SV pleasing us with tales of his early days on the Great Lakes as a radio operator.

We continue to meet during the summer at the Sizzler Restaurant on U.S. 98N, Lakeland, on the third Saturday of each month at 11:00 a.m. Also, we keep active with the Saturday net 7243 at 9:00 a.m. where many check in from around the Southeast.

— Reported by Jim Gundry, W4JM

GATOR CHAPTER

Thirty-five members and guests attended our May meeting. This was the last meeting for our President Paul Turner, W1DLP as he is moving to Winter Park. Paul was a tower of strength for our chapter and we sure will miss him. He was presented with a beautiful plaque with a clock mounted on it. He was also an active member of the Pelican Chapter.

Our Net Manager Fred Leedham, W1WOX has been quite sick, but is home from the hospital and we were pleasantly surprised to hear Fred check into our Saturday morning net.

We will continue to meet all summer with informal discussions.

Our Program Chairman Bill Penhallegon, W4STX has done a fine job on getting good programs at each meeting. At this meeting he showed a very interesting Florida film on the "history of light."

We welcomed a new member, Eugene Chester, K9FOQ of Largo.

Our new President is Barton Bridge, W2ZYQ.

Jay Strom, K9BSL the co-chairman of the 1993 QCWA National Convention attended the meeting and he's looking for helpers.

— Reported by Eli Nannis, K4JMH

TREASURE COAST CHAPTER
By Jack, K3CEW

Last week we had a dinner meeting at the Hampton House Restaurant (the Old Flamingo) on 40th Avenue in Vero Beach. Six members and their XYLs and guests attended. We plan to have more get-togethers, but may wait until the snow birds come back in the fall.

We were happy to present certificates to Charles (Chick) Crouse, KE4ZS for 70 years as a licensed amateur and to Burt Lawton, W2JLO for his 55 years. We also acknowledged Ike Roach, K4QM who received his 70-Year Certificate last month.

I'll keep you posted on future activities.

— 73,
Jack, K3CEW

KNIGHTS OF THE KILOCYCLE
By Bob, W4KOG
3910 Kc. Sunday Morning 1130Z-0730 EDT

More bad news to report this month. Two of our members became "silent keys" during the last week of May.

Ed Murphy, WA4GCF of Leesburg passed away unexpectedly. Specific information is not known at this time, but Ed was active on the net and had checked in on the last session with no reported problems.

Max Mosler, KA4AUZ of Glen Ridge died suddenly of a heart attack on May 31st. Max has been an active listener to the Knights Net since the 1930s. He was awarded an Associate Member Certificate — Number One — on April 29, 1951. Max persisted in his attempts to learn the code and received his technical license in August, 1978. Although very few of the

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Knights knew Max, he knew each of their names and calls from the middle '30s up until the present.

To WA4GCF and KA4AUZ . . . 30.

I know that last month I promised to give everyone a rundown on Field Day this month, but you'll have to wait till next issue. Things are still going smoothly and we're still planning on finishing on top this year. (Wot cud go wrong???) Hope to talk to all of you!!!

Talking of contests, I had a good time operating during the recent Florida QSO Party. I hope there was a better turnout this year because it needs support in order to survive.

It has just occurred to me that it's been almost five years since I decided to retire and "take it easy." I've never been so busy in my life!!! I've got so many unfinished projects that I don't know which one to work on first.

My present one tho is to rebuild the inside of my van to include a HF operating station, complete with all the necessary accommodations for spending extended periods of time at hamfests, reunions or whatever. At present it looks like I'll have it ready for use by the Melbourne Hamfest in September.

I hope to have a two-meter mobile, an Icom IC-730 for HF portable using a 5BT Hustler trapped vertical antenna, along with tape and computer disc for easy listening on the road.

Look me up at Melbourne and see if I meet my schedule . . . HI . . . HI . . .

I noticed in the last month's Skip that the guys up in Ormond Beach are planning another balloon launch this August . . . The picture from the balloon should be accessible pretty much all over the state, and it can be copied on any "cable ready" set, but you must have an outside UHF antenna to copy.

Plan now to participate and join the fun . . . maybe I'll even put ATV in the van . . .

Best of luck to Wendy, W1UCL on his trip up north this summer.

Happy birthday to Andy, W4IYT and Berry, K40II. (What ever happened to him???)

Everyone else . . . have a nice month.

73, 88 and CU again next month.

INDIAN HAM ASSASSINATED

Former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who was active on the amateur radio bands as VU2RG, was assassinated in late May. The plot, which was carried out by a terrorist on a suicide mission, involved the use of plastic explosives. VU2RG was the son of former Indian leader Indira Gandhi who herself was assassinated in 1984.

He was a well-known DXer who had become more active after being unseated in 1987 elections. He remained active in government as Minister of Science and Technology. Reportedly, the assassination plot was formed by those upset with Indian intervention in nearby Sri Lanka.

— From NOFARS Balance Modulator

Earl Turner W1DLP president of Gator QCWA chapter turning over gravel to new president Barton Bridge W2ZYG. Also a plaque on the table was given to Paul.

FM . . 11 Panhandle.

K4GFI; Bos, K3NN; Jimmy W4ROM; Tom, WA4HHJ are all approaching the DX Honor Roll Award. At last report Bill is only one short of the magic number.

For those who don't know much about DX, the idea is to contact approved countries around the world. The easiest award to get is the DX Century Club. This requires confirmation of 100 accredited countries. The countries are listed in the ARRL DX CC booklet for $1.00. The publication is updated when new countries are to be admitted. The current one is dated March. A new one should be coming out soon.

The DX CC Honor Roll requires confirmation of all but nine of the 322 countries listed. You may have to get your Atlas out to locate one of the new ones. It is Penguin Island off the Atlantic Coast of South Africa.

You might find it interesting to listen at 10:00 p.m. (CDT) +/- a few minutes on the 146.79 repeater where they have a brief informal meeting each night to pass information back and forth. I'm sure you will be welcome.

Hoss, N4SIS completed the amateur auxiliary exam and was appointed Official Observer by ARRL Field Services. Curtis, KC4UCB, as chairperson of the local Interference Committee, is in the process of forming the committee from ARRL members in Northwest Florida and South Alabama. Contact Curtis and volunteer to serve on the local Interference Committee. Help resolve complaints and further the goodwill of amateur radio.

At the next hamfest remember, "The legs get heavier as the pocketbook gets lighter."

FCC-ISSUED CALL SIGN UPDATE

The following is a list of the FCC's most recently issued call signs (as of May 1991).

District	Group A Extra	Group B Advanced	Group C Tech/Gen	Group D Novice
0	AA0EM	KF0RE	N0NQV	KB0IZM
1	WR1W	KD1BA	N1IYT	KA1YSX
2	AA2EF	KF2BO	N2MIO	KB2MVA
3	WN3D	KD3WU	N3JIM	KA3YYE
4	AC4EI	KO4BA	**	KC4ZYL
5	AA5YD	KI5PW	N5TEW	KB5PPE
6	AB6CK	KM6AK	**	KC6UQF
7	AA7IN	KG7PG	N7RMA	KB7NNH
8	AA8DO	KF8NE	N8OHD	KB8MMD
9	AA9AP	KF9DH	N9LEC	KB9GRW
Hawaii	**	AH6LG	NH6ZY	WH6CMP
Alaska	**	AL7NA	NL7XC	WL7CCF
Puerto Rico	**	KP4RV	**	WP4KAN

** All call signs in this group have been issued in this area.

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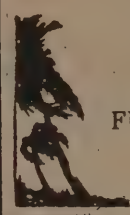

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SPECIAL SALE

Florida SKIP has some new back issues of the 5th Edition of FLORIDA TRAFFIC HANDLERS Routing Guides on hand, edited by Andy Clark, W4IYT. To clear out this Guide, we are selling them for $2.50 each plus 50 cent postage and handling. The Traffic Guide contains everything the 6th edition has plus a centerfold map of Florida with city location chart. If you want 2 for $5.00 we will pay all postage & handling. FLORIDA SKIP PO Box 501, Miami Springs, FL 33266.

DIRECTORY

ATTENTION ALL FLORIDA Q.C.W.A. CHAPTERS

Florida Skip will be publishing a directory of any QCWA chapter in Florida. Send me Eli Nannis, K4JMH, 14996 Imperial Point Drive North, Largo, Florida 34644.

FLORIDA STATE Q.C.W.A. NET

The Florida State QCWA Net meets every Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m. on 3955 KHz.

CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER

The Central Florida Chapter meets all year-round at the Sizzler Steakhouse, 3105 U.S. Highway 98 North, near I-4, Lakeland, Florida. They meet the third Saturday of each month at 11:30 a.m.

For more information contact: Frank La Londe, W4PBL, 3840 Charter Road, Lakeland, Florida 33809 or phone him at (813) 858-8346.

FLORALA CHAPTER

The Florala meets the second Saturday of each month at 12:00 noon at the Hickory House Restaurant, Ft. Walton Square Shopping Center, 99 Eglin Parkway, Northeast.

For more information contact John Zwaska, W4WKQ, (904) 651-1607.

GATOR CHAPTER

The Gator Chapter meets the first Saturday of each month at Stacey's Buffet on Missouri Avenue, Midway Shopping Center, Clearwater at 11:30 a.m.

For more information contact: Eli Nannis, K4JMH at (813) 595-3111 or at 14996 Imperial Point Drive, North, Largo, Florida 34644.

HALIFAX CHAPTER 125

Covers: Flagler County, Ormond Beach, Daytona Beach, Holly Hill, New Smyrna Beach and Edgewater.

Meet: Second Saturday of every month.

Where: Prime Steak and Seafood Restaurant, Volusia (Route 92) near I-95, Daytona Beach.

For Information: Call President Al Schutrum, K2HWF, (904) 672-2324 or Secretary Jack Resnick, W4OKE, (904) 673-0931. Or write: P.O. Box 926, Ormond Beach, FL 32174.

PALM BEACH CHAPTER 111

The Palm Beach Chapter of QCWA meets at the Picadilly Restaurant at Northlake Boulevard and Alternate AIA (10th Avenue) in Lake Park at 12 noon on the last Tuesday of each month. Everyone is welcome.

For information contact: Bob McDow, W4KOG at (407) 848-2352.

PELICAN CHAPTER

The Pelican Chapter meets the third Wednesday of each month at the Family Homestyle Buffet at Tyrone Gardens on 1035 58th Street, North, St. Petersburg. The time is 11:30 a.m.

For more information contact: Jay Strom, K9BSL, 233 34th Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL 33704; 822-9107.

F.C.C. INFORMATION PAGE

AUBURNDALE AREA

W5YI exams, technical through extra, are to be held on the third Saturday of each month starting at 9:00 a.m. They will be held in the First Presbyterian Church on 410 Pilaklakaha Avenue (PK Avenue), Auburndale, Florida. Between Winter Haven and Lakeland on Highway 92. Turn off 92nd on Ariana Avenue, go two stop signs and turn left on PK Avenue. It's the second building on right.

Walk-ins accepted on test available basis. Reservations requested. There is a fee of **$5.25** for tech through extra.

For information contact: Pete Salvage at (813) 646-2526 or Bill Loop at (813) 967-5952.

BREVARD COUNTY

ARRL/VEC exams by Consolidated V.E.'s of Brevard County — Room Q-22 — Florida Institute of Technology — Melbourne — 10:00 a.m. (check-in 0930) — third Saturday of every month.

No pre-registration required. Form 610 provided. Bring original and photocopy of current license.

HIALEAH

W5YI coordinated tests — novice through extra, every third Saturday of month at 8 p.m. Due to space limitations pre-registration is encouraged. Fee is $4.95.

Contact Ivan Prada, KP4EDL at (305) 829-0602 from 7 to 9 p.m. for more information.

SUNRISE

CAVEC exams by Racal-Milgo in Sunrise twice per month; on the first Saturday at 8:45 a.m. and on the third Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at 1601 N.W. 136th Avenue (North Harrison Parkway).

No pre-registration required.

Bring: the original and one copy of your license, the original of any credit certificate (or copy of FCC Form 610 for novice credit), proof of identity (driver's license with photo, etc.) and $2 (except novice which is free).

For further information call: Chip Allen, AK4Y at his home at 476- 8761; or Joe Loewy, KB4FO either at his home 434-8211 or work 846-4567. For 24-hour recorded information call 846-4444.

Talk-in on 145.270 (Tx 600 KHz).

CITRUS COUNTY

License exams are scheduled for the third Saturday in the odd numbered months at 8:30 a.m. at the Citrus County Emergency Operations Center on West Southern Street in Lecanto. (West off C.R. 491, one-quarter mile north of S.R. 44.)

Reservations preferred, walk-ins accepted while supplies last. Bring original ham license and photocopy, certificates for prior exam credits if any, photo identification as **driver's license, pen & pencils and $5.25 fee. Phone Dwight, KJ4AP, (904) 746-4306 for reservations and information.**

Crestview:

FCC exams are given the second Saturday of each third month (February, May, August and November) at 9:00 a.m. at the Council on Aging Building, 298 South Wilson Street, Crestview, Florida. Fee **$5.25**. Walk-ins welcome. Bring original and copy of license, and a photo identification. For more information contact Bill Pate, WB4ORK, Route 1, Box 189, Crestview, Florida; telephone (904) 682-0539.

DADE CITY AREA

W5YI exams — technician through extra class (novice exams by reservation only) — are conducted the third Wednesday of each month except December, in the Tampa Electric Company, Community Room, 602 East Meridian Avenue (two blocks east of Highway 301) in Dade City, Florida at 6:30 p.m.

Bring the original and a photocopy of your current license, any CSCE and a $5.00 fee.

Form 610 will be furnished and pre-registration is recommended. Exams by appointment will be conducted for those persons with special needs.

Contact Dan Wilson, AB4LN at (904) 521-3494 or (904) 583-5120 evenings and weekends for further information.

DADE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO EXAMINATIONS

Exams will be held at the Dade County Emergency Operations Center, 5600 S.W. 87th Avenue, Miami, Florida 33173, at 9:00 a.m. on the second Saturday of the month.

Walk-in exams on test available basis. Bring a photocopy of your current license, photo identification, pen and pencil and a $4.75 check payable to ARRL/VEC. FCC Form 610 available at exam.

For further information contact Tom Sherwood, AL7HW at 255-3170 after 5:00 p.m.

NORTH DADE — SOUTH BROWARD AREA

FCC exams are given on the fourth Thursday of each month by a W5YI-VEC team at 6:30 p.m. prior to the regular monthly meeting of the Fellowship Amateur Radio Club at Ingall's Park in Hallandale at 735 S.W. 1st Street.

No charge for novice . . . all others $5.25.

Bring the original of your license, a photocopy and positive identification.

For more information call Howard, N4EBT at 935-5214 or Norm, K4RBR at 823-5437 (evenings).

V.E.C. 1990 EXAM SCHEDULE

Fort Walton Beach:

ARRL/VEC exams by Playground ARC, are held quarterly at the clubhouse — 17 East First Street, Fort Walton Beach. The 1990 dates are March 10th, June 9th, September 8th and December 8th. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. Walk-ins are welcome. Fee is $4.95. For futher information contact Bill Hord, W4WIJ at (904) 243-9720; or Hal Byrd, WG4X at (904) 243-0882.

WEST PASCO COUNTY

The Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Club is sponsoring ARRL/VEC exam sessions — novice through extra — on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Location is the Adult Education Center, 1510 South Boulevard, New Port Richey.

Walks-ins accepted on a materials available basis. Pre-registration strongly advised.

Bring original and photocopy of current amateur radio license, positive identification, check for $5.25 payable to ARRL/VEC (no fee for novice exam) and original and photocopy of any CSCE. Form 610 will be furnished.

Talk-in on 146.67 (Tx-600).

For further information contact Fred, AA4FG at (813) 849-1224 or Ralph, W2GLW at (813) 842-8351.

HERNANDO COUNTY EXAMS

The Hernando Volunteer Examining Council (HERVEC) with Clover Leaf ARC and Spring Hill ARC co-sponsors are conducting monthly exams novice through extra, each third Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at Springfield High School in Spring Hill. The Clover Leaf Visitor's Center in Brooksville is the alternate exam site.

Walk-ins are welcome.

For information contact Paul Sauer, K4ZC at (904) 683-3167.

LAKE COUNTY — CENTRAL FLORIDA

W5YI-VEC exams will be held on the following Saturdays in 1991: April 20th, May 18th, July 20th, September 21st, October 19th and November 16th. Test time is 9:30 a.m.

The location is the Lake Amateur Radio Association Clubhouse, just west of Tavares, Florida. Go two miles west of Tavares on U.S. Highway 441 to CR 473. North one mile on CR 473 to the Haines Creek Baptist Church. The clubhouse and 180-foot tower are behind the church.

Walk-ins permitted.

Bring a copy of ham license, copies of any certificates of successful completion of exam and positive identification. Cost is $5.25 for 1991.

Talk-in on 147.255, K4FC, repeater.

For information contact Paul, K3NON at (904) 343-8729 or Millie, KQ4R at (904) 343-0075.

MARION COUNTY FLORIDA

Tests are given the second Monday of every second month (February, April, June, August, October and December) at 7:00 p.m. (sharp) . . . novice through extra. Walk-ins are welcome.

The location is the Green Clover Hall in the Marion County Government Complex off Route 40 on Ft. King and 25th Avenue in Ocala, Florida.

Bring $4.95 and a copy of license.

For more information call R. Brenner, KA4RWB at (904) 237-5783 or write to 5690 S.W. 36th Avenue, Ocala, Florida 32674 and send a SASE for a reply.

OCALA/CENTRAL FLORIDA

W5YI exams are held each month (except November and December) on the last Thursday, 7:30 p.m. at the St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 2802 N.E. 7th Street, Ocala, Florida.

All exams, novice through extra, are given on a walk-in basis. Fee is $4.75. Novices are free. Talk-in is available on 145.130 repeater.

For information contact Jim, KA2MBE at (904) 236-0744; or Joe, KA4WJB at (904) 351-0985.

PALM BEACH AREA

The Palm Beach Amateur Radio Council and Palm Beach Community College Amateur Radio Club are giving amateur radio license tests on the third Saturday of each month (except October is at hamfest) at 9:00 a.m. at Palm Beach Community College, 4200 Congress Avenue, Lake Worth, in Criminal Justice Room 101, for $5.25 in 1991 (I-95 and Sixth Avenue South and go west).

Walk-ins permitted as long as we have test materials available.

October is on Saturday and Sunday at 9:00 a.m. at Palm Beach County Hamfest at South Florida Fair Grounds on State Road 80 (Southern Boulevard) — west of Turnpike (no exit).

PANAMA CITY, FLORIDA

1991 remaining test dates are July 13th and October 12th at 9:00 a.m. at the Acme Lodge on 230 McKenzie Avenue, Panama City.

Make checks payable to ARRL-VEC for $5.25.

For information contact Charles Hickman, N4DPU, 2402 West 21st Street, Panama City; (904) 785-0449.

BOCA RATON

The Siemens Amateur Radio Club sponsors ARRL/VEC coordinated exams the third Friday every month at 17:30 hours, except December which will be the second Friday. The tests will be given at the Spanish River High School, 5100 Jog Road, Room 8207, Boca Raton.

Pre-registration is recommended, but walk-ins are accepted if testing materials are available. Novice exams are free . . . all others are $4.95.

Bring a photo identification, your original license and a copy and the original and a copy of any CSCE's. All forms are provided.

Contact Ron Diego at (407) 994-7168 during business hours or (407) 487-1726 evenings and weekends for more information or to pre-register.

FT. PIERCE • PORT ST. LUCIE • ST. LUCIE COUNTY

The Ft. Pierce Amateur Radio Club is sponsoring ARRL/VEC exams on the fourth Saturday of each month. Location is the St. Anastasia School, 401 South 33rd Street in Ft. Pierce (From I-95, take Orange Avenue East Exit, go to the first traffic light and turn right. Church and school is just before the traffic light on 33rd Street.)

Bring the original and one copy of your license, the original and copy of credit certificate and identification.

Register at 9:00 a.m. and the test will begin at 9:30 a.m.

For further details call: Fred Neumann at (407) 340-1069 or Bill Shishler at (407) 466-5648.

DUNEDIN — TAMPA BAY AREA

W5YI-VEC coordinated amateur radio exams are conducted by the Dunedin ARC/VE testing team on the first Monday of every month. If the first Monday is a holiday, then the tests are held on the second Monday.

Testing begins at 7:00 p.m. in the Foreign Language Building, Number 99, Dunedin High School, 1615 Pinehurst Road, Dunedin.

Remember to bring with you, two forms of identification, originals and copies of your license and CSCE's if any and the $4.95 fee required for the tech through extra exams. Talk-in on 145.110 or 145.310 (Tx-600).

For registration and/or information call WC2G at (813) 938-7810 or W8RH at (813) 535-2034. Mailing address is: P.O. Box 1851, Dunedin, Florida 34697.

TAMPA EVENING TESTING

W5YI-VEC exams will be held the last Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. (except November and December). Sessions will be replaced by one date in early December due to holidays. (Phone for exact date during November.)

Testing location is the second floor of the American Red Cross Building, 217 North Howard Avenue, Tampa.

Novice exams are free. All others $4.75 cash. Bring with you the original and a photocopy of your current license and original and photocopies of CSCE's, if any.

To resolve questions or obtain holiday season dates contact Scott, KA4FRO at (813) 685-2514.

QCWA CITRUS CHAPTER

The QCWA Citrus Chapter meets on the third Saturday of each month at Stacey's Buffet in Altamonte Springs at noon.

For more information contact Don Fisher, W4PLA, 143 Hilltop Place, Altamonte Springs, Florida 32701; phone (407) 331-0456.

Royal Palm Chapter QCWA, No. 152.
Meeting Place: Elks Club, Airport Road, Naples.
Meeting Time: 11:30 a.m., second Tuesday of each month.
President: George G. Slade, W1GOG, 4617 Lakewood Boulevard, Naples, FL 33962; (813) 793-3533.

SOUTHEAST CHAPTER

The Southeast Chapter meets on the third Saturday of each month at noon at Denny's Restaurant, 7411 N.W. 36th Street, Miami, Florida 33166.

For more information contact Art Rauch, W4VZ, 10950 S.W. 105th Avenue, Miami, Florida 33176-3435; (305) 274-9709.

SUNCOAST CHAPTER

The Suncoast Chapter meets the first Thursday of the month, October through May at the House of Chong on the west side of Route 41 — just south of the junction of Route 72 — at 11:30 a.m.

For inforamtion contact: Bob Bookwalter, W4NWF, at (813) 485-7928.

TREASURE COAST CHAPTER

The Treausre Coast Chapter meets the third Thursday of each month at 11:30 a.m. at the Vero Beach Inn, Route A1A.

For more information contact Secretary/Treasurer, Dr. W.R. Staples, W4SME, P.O. Box 782202, Sebastian, Florida 32978; (407) 664-6750.

SUWANNEE CHAPTER NO. 62

DIRECTORY LISTING FOR 'FLORIDA SKIP'

The Suwannee Chapter No. 62 meets the fourth Thursday of the months of February, April, June, August and October, and the second Thursday in December at Don's Smorgasbord on 36th Avenue, one block south of Silver Springs Boulevard, in Ocala, Florida. The time is 11:30 a.m.

For more information contact: Ray Chartier, W1RFE at (904) 694-5439.

PALM BEACH CHAPTER

The Palm Beach Chapter QCWA meets on the last Tuesday of the month at the Picadilly Restaurant, Northlake Boulevard and Alternate A1A, in Lake Park. Luncheon starts at 12:00 noon.

For more information call Bob McDow, W4KOG at (407) 848-2352.

ORLANDO AREA EXAMS

FCC exams for all classes will be given the second Saturday of June, September and December at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the First Presbyterian Church in Maitland. The exact dates are: June 8th, September 14th and December 14th.

Remember to bring with you two forms of identification, FCC license and copy of it and copies of any CSCE's when you come.

CAVEC exams will cost $5.00 and ARRL exams will be $5.25, depending upon which VEC coordinates the session.

For information call: Roy, N4ADI, (407) 644-5905.

PENSACOLA

CAVEC exams will be held on the third Saturday of each month at 9:00 a.m. The location is the West Florida Hospital in the cafeteria.

For further information contact Bill, WA4YRN at (904) 476-8537 at his home or (904) 474-8328 at his workplace.

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BRIEFS

• More than 250 requests for the Samuel F.B. Morse certificate have been received for the first proficiency run in late April (see June *QST*, p. 14, for a reproduction of the certificate). Additional qualifying runs (in addition to those already scheduled) are being contemplated for the fall.

• The latest U.S. Telecommunications Training Institute (USTTI) Amateur Radio Administration Course, taught by IARU President Dick Baldwin, W1RU in early May, hosted the following telecommunications officials:

Lennox O'Brian Smith (Guyana); Marco Barahona (Honduras); Mario Lobo (Honduras); John Norbert (St. Lucia): and Oros Chattanond (Thailand).

Members of the HQ technical department assisted, demonstrating construction techniques and 10 GHz operation, as did International Programs Manager Nao Akiyama, NX1L.

One evening during the week-long course all five students visited Akiyama's home station. "We took advantage of the third-party traffic agreement with Argentina to have a QSO in Spanish with LU6UAG, in La Pampa," Akiyama said. NX1L is fluent in Spanish, which allowed him to monitor the QSO.

The students returned to their home countries with books, as well as a new appreciation for Amateur Radio.

• An FCC public notice (May 13) makes it clear that amateurs are expected to be entirely *off 220-222 MHz* by Aug. 27. "Requests for waiver of the rules to permit continued amateur station operation in this band will generally not be viewed favorably," the Commission said. "Any such request [for a waiver] must overcome the heavy burden of demonstrating that the arguments made in support thereof are substantially different from those that have been carefully considered in both rule making proceedings" (the proceedings resulting in reassigning 220-222 MHz to the land mobile service).

• The new head of the Handi-Ham System at the Courage Center in Minnesota is 43-year-old Patrick Tice, WAØTDA. Tice, of Stillwater, MN, assumed his new duties May 13.

• New licenses issued by the FCC in March, the first full calendar month of codeless Technician class availability, were as follows: Novice, 1,734; Technician, 882; General, 31; Advanced, 5; Extra, 4 (for a total of 2,656). FCC has no breakdown of codeless vs. traditional Technician licenses issued. Since actual licensing always lags license applications, it actually is too early to assess the effect of the new license class.

Note that the figures above are for *new* licenses. Also in March 2,216 amateurs upgraded, including 1,079 to Tech., 526 to General, 371 to Advanced, and 240 to Extra.

• Two bills of interest to amateurs have been introduced in the Ohio House of Representatives. One, HB-348, proposes to limit Amateur Radio towers to 35 feet, according to Richard T. Bennett, NZ8O, a Patalaskala, Ohio lawyer. That bill, according to ARRL Volunteer Counsel Arthur McGory Jr., N8HBE, is expected to die in committee.

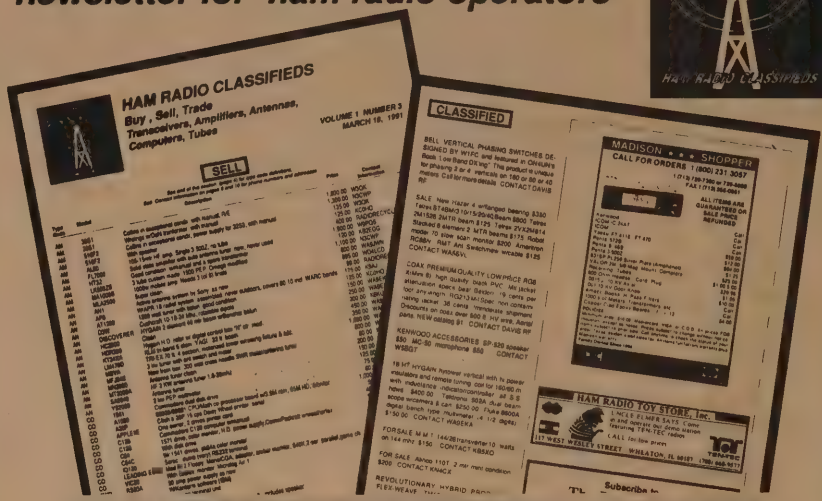
Another bill, HB-15, is described as a "tall towers bill," and would, according to *Real Property News*, "provide for a permitting process with the Ohio Department of Transportation before certain structures that may create an air hazard can be constructed or existing structures substantially changed. The bill is general in scope and may affect potential structures far removed from an airport location," the *News*, a publication of the Ohio State Bar Association, said.

Ohio amateurs may wish to write or phone their state representatives.

ARRL Letter May

HAM RADIO CLASSIFIEDS

the bi-weekly classified newsletter for ham radio operators



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BP-8	8.4v	800mah	$21.00
BP-22	8.4v	270mah	$22.00
BP-23	8.4v	600mah	$22.00
BP-24	10.8v	600mah	$26.00

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PB-21H	7.2v	600mah	$15.00
PB24 Tabs	9.6v	600mah	$15.00
PB-25/26	8.4v	500mah	$18.00

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FNB-4/4A	12v	500mah	$27.50
FNB-10	7.2v	600mah	$15.00
FNB-11	12v	600mah	$30.00
FNB-12	12v	500mah	$30.00

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Henri	Teresa
Isabel	Victor
Juan	Wanda
Kate	

Please recycle this newspaper.

NEW 440 MHZ REPEATER MAP

After much delay and hard work, Florida Skip now has a 440 MHz MAP listing all Repeaters in Florida! The map editor, Harlin Cohn, W4UIM in Miami did a very nice job on this map. It is much like our 2 Meter Map except it is printed on light green paper. You will be amazed at the number of 440 Repeaters Florida now has! I was! The price is the same as our 2 Meter Map, 25 cents each with your self-addressed stamped envelope. (Don't forget the stamp!) To: 440 Map, Box 501, Miami Springs, FL 33266. (Note: The 2 and 440 Maps will go in one envelope for 22 cents postage.)

JAX CABLE COMPANY GETS NOD FOR PERSONAL NETWORKS

(From "The Institute," IEEE via N4DC)

A wireless U.S. society has advanced on two fronts. The FCC has approved applications from three cable companies for trials of wireless personal communications networks (PCNs), and Motorola has introduced a wireless local area network (LAN) for offices.

In a PCN, callers use battery-powered pocket-sized telephones to talk to virtually any telephone subscriber in the world. The cable television trials will equip the cable network with a multitude of local PCN antennas that will transmit radio signals to and receive them from customers' tiny handsets. The experiments could herald direct competition between cable television companies and local telephone companies in voice communications.

Cablevision System Corporation will operate experimental PCNs in New York, Boston, Chicago and Cleveland. Cox Enterprises will conduct trials in New York City and San Diego. Continental Cablevision will operate systems in Boston, Jacksonville and Stockton, California.

"These were the first cable television applications we received, but there are about 30 other PCN applications that we approved over the last year-and-a-half," Fred Thomas, chief of the frequency liaison branch in the FCC's Spectrum Engineering Division said. "It's a hot item."

— From NOFARS, Balance Modulator

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Deadline for all HAMBARS and ads, eighth (8th) of each month in P.O. Box 501, Miami Springs, Florida 33266. Normal mailing date 25th of each month. Thank you for your cooperation.

—Editor.

FOR SALE OR TRADE: Fluke 77 multimeter brand new n box $100. Heath 2311 Like new $40. Waters Model 376 coax switch 5 pos $25. B&W CS-3G 3 pos $15.00 MFJ 1702 3 pos $12. Johnson Phone Patch $20. Kenwood Solid state gen. coverage receiver R-1000 $180. Hallicrafters SW-54 $20. I will trade everything (except R-1000) for equal value in telegraph keys and hand, speed or autokeyrs. All my gear works and has been well cared for. Trade for same Quality. Del Clouster W8KJP, 4439 Gatlin Grove Dr., Orlando, FL 32812 407 275-8285.

SUCCESS COVERS A MULTITUDE OF FLUNDERS. . .

SALE: OR TRADE: Commodore 64 with extra power supply 1571, Disk Drive AEA Pakratt 64 - HF Eqpt. 1530 datasette unit, RCA B/W monitor, 20 cassettes, 28 Flex's disks "Programs" etc. Sale: $400. Trade for D.D. H.F. rig, Mint condition. Martin Simmonds KK4PI, 2060 SE 176 Ave., Silver Springs, FL 32688 904 625-6567.

Copplete computer set up. C-64, 1702 color monitor, 1541 disc drive, Okidata color printer, pwr suply and all cables $395. Steve Taber W4ITD, 2665 N.E. 26 Ave., Lighthouse Point, FL 33064 305 781-5387.

Low Band, Dual element, fiberglass quad, new, never used. Pick-up only $95. CDR TR-44 rotor $65. Heathkit SB series console with SWR, clock, patch $45. Atari 800XL with cassette drive, games, books $65. Ken Lenz WA4ABR 1900 NW 34 Ave., Coconut Creek, FL 33066 305 - 974-8076.

SALE: Heath kits with manuals. SB-102 Xmtr complete power sup ly and mic $200. RF signal generator $25.00 Signal tracer public address system $22. phone patch assembled, tested, never used $30. barious meters $1. each. Howard Aronld W4PCP 4118 Cleveland St., Hollywood, FL 33021 305 981- 5541.

HE WHO NEVER MADE A MISTAKE NEVER MADE A DISDOVERY'. . tks W4Zgg.

SALE: Mint TenTec Titian 425B amp $1800. OBO. Scanner Regency Turbo 800 75 CH $200. OBO. RFC concept 2 mtr amp new $175. OBO. Cushcraft 2 M FB 15 el. 2 mtr beam. $70. OBO. Call or write. F. E. Neuman W2EUX, 199 SW Todd Ave. Port St. Lucie, FL 34983 407 390=1069.

For sale: UHF Engineer repeater, Mirage D-24 amplifier, NACOM Duplexers, notch filter, Astron RS-35A power supply, CES autopatch, Remote control CTCSS tone, timer CW ID AFM-44DA cushcraft antenna, all mount in rack, working in excellent conditions at 442-625+, asking $2,300. First come , first go!! Marcelo, KC4GYB, 1911 SW 107 Ave., Miami, FL 33165 305 227-9778.

FOR SALE: TEN -TEC Hercules, just back from the factory. Looks like new. $650. Ten-Tec Corsair II recently factory overhauled. Looks like new. $900. Geo. Sperry, W4UKA, 635 SE 19th St., Ocala, FL 32671 904 732-3364.

BRUTE HV POWER SUPPLY partially assembled in wood rack with castors following components 2.5 KVA powerstat, Xfmr 0-240 V primary 1500-1750 each side center 2.5 amps secondary; surge resistors, K2AW bridge rectifier stack 14KV 100 MFD 7500 WVDC capacitor, misc. Circuit breakers, relays, switches, meter panel etc. PICK UP only. Any reasonable offer to A. Pross Walker W4BW, 1087 Tung Hill Dr., Tallahassee, Fl 32311 904 878-8361.

NEED: Zero to 1 Amp. D.C. meter. Victor Lopez, N4ICP 16610 SW 99 Ave., Miami, FL 33157-3246 305 378-9496.

NEW RADIO BUFFS SPECIALS' AMERICAS BEST: TenTecOMNI V $1850.00 Paragon $1850. New Delta $1399.00 Argonaut QRP $1199. 961 power supply $219. Hercules II $1190. Titan $2,635. Auto tuner $899. Japan Radio Co. JRC 135HP $2,499.oo JRC 135Standred $1,599.oo NRD 525 $999. NRD 535 $1,599.00 Ask for price on all accessproes. We also carry ICOM, MFJ, B&W, AMECO, COMET, KLM/Mirage, SPI-RO, Sangean, AOR Scanners, and many more amateur radio items. CALL HENRY N4ED Q at Radio BuffsAmateur Radio Sales, or Write: 4400 Highway 19A, Mount Dora, FL 32757 or call 1-800-828-6433 after hours FAX 904-589-5576. Our store hours are: Mon, Thru. Fri. 10 AM Till 5 PM EST.

SELL: 40 ft. crank-up tilt-over tower with Mosley TA33Jr and CDR rotor, $200. ICOM IC-730 HF $400. MFJ-1270 $175. Cushcraft A144-10T 2m beam $20. All prices OBO William Thompson KB5AMA, 15250 SW 156 Ave., Miami, FL 33167 305 233-7191.

NEED SPACE: 1989 HAM RADIO 30 cents each. 1989 1990 1991 CW 73s, and QSTs 30 cents each plus postage. Andy Clark W4IYT, 41 Lenape Dr., Miami Springs, FL 33166 888-3874.

NEED: SM10 mic. Victor Lopez N4ICP, 16610 SW 99 Ave. Miami, 33157-3246 305 378-9496.

SELL: Kenwood TS940S/AT, all filters & VS-2 voice. Never been in a pile-up. $1,575. Alpha 76CA amplifier, EXPORT desk model, 3 ea. 8874's in parallel, Hypersil transformer & all bands. Kenwood MC-60 with Heil HC-5 element, up-down long red cord $115. Pile up buster and cards and letters getter! $1,7525. Several smaller amps 1kW and 2kW. All qbove used only a little old lady school teacher. Sell, trade or lease. You call, we'll deal. You pay I ship. Brand new Kilovac 4KW vacuum, relay $100. Don Hammon N4LUC, 8340 SW 30 St., Miami, FL 33155 305 554-8645 0300-0600 AM is OK.

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WANTED: CLEAN 32S-3A, 516F2, 75S-30 with filters, 312B-4, SM-3 with manuals and cables. Write RIC C6ANI POB N4106, Nassau, BAHAMAS.

MANUALS MANUALS MANUALS:! Recently we acquired a great number of operating anf service manuals, such as: AIWA' Kenwood, Yeasu, ICOM, Swan, Midland, Tempo, ECL Regency, SMR, Alda, Micrologic, Motorola, Collins, Signal One, SBE, Gonset, Lafayette, National, RME, Pearce-Simpson Standard, Uniden, Johnson, RePCO. Hallicrafters, Heath, Drake, Azden, Hammarlund, BandMaster,. If you need any of the above send a SASE(Self Addressed Stamp Envelope) and I will check the master list and let you know if we can help you. Prices run from $3 to $20. Andy Clark W4IYT, 41 Lenape Dr., Miami Springs, FL 33166 305 888-3874.

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SELL: ICOM 720A trans, power supply. Mike, AM/Gen. coverage receiver with manual $550. Norm Polansky W1TTT 164 Sandpiper Ave. Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411 407 969-0899.

A Rare Moment With Some Rare DX

by Francis J. Merceret, WB4BBH
12801 S.W. 148th St. Rd.
Miami, Florida 33186

I operate QRP because I enjoy it rather than due to some sense of moral obligation. When I'm chasing DX I have no reluctance to use whatever legal power I can command to bag a rare one. Malpelo Island is one of the rarest ones around and in anticipation of the scheduled DXpedition there in the fall of 1983 I had my linear and five-element tribander ready for combat.

I also had a serious timing problem. The expedition was set for the second week of October. On Tuesday evening of that week I would leave Miami for a three day seminar in Orlando. On Saturday, my XYL would meet me in Orlando to begin heading north for our vacation in the Carolinas. Malpelo had better be activated on Monday or I'd miss it!

As Monday evening waned and Malpelo remained silent, I did not. As I bemoaned my misfortune on the local DX repeater, K4CEF came on with a suggestion: "Hey Frank, don't you have a mobile rig?" I did. It was my little Yaesu FT-7, a QRP jewel capable of about 10 watts PEP out if you're transmitting downwind. Unfortunately, I told Bart, I didn't have any mobile antennas. "No problem," he said, "I have a set in my trunk. You can borrow them during your trip." QRP from the mobile wasn't quite half a kilowatt into five elements, but it would be worth a try. I met him the next day at a turnpike exchange on the way north and picked up a set of Hustlers. They fit the CB antenna mount on my Sentra just fine. Still nothing heard from HK0.

The seminar began on Wednesday, and so did the DXpedition. I ate dinner immediately after the afternoon session and headed for the car. One of Orlando's abundant lakes provided a ground plane to the south as I selected a clear site, parked, and fired up on 20 meters. The first few minutes was spent setting up and tuning the antennas for the frequencies targeted by the expedition. The rest of the evening was spent vainly searching for the pile-ups. Conditions must not have been good, or maybe I just had the wrong band. The beginning was not encouraging.

Thursday's operation was another matter. Quick QSOs with EA3BVS, TU2NW, J88AG, CE3CEF and several Canadians gave hope that maybe, just maybe, it could be done! Finding the pile-up was easy, but finding HK0TU was not. The expedition was working split frequency. Would they be within reach of the RIT on the FT-7? The Orlando DX repeater provided the frequency. Unfortunately, they couldn't provide me with a second VFO. The RIT wasn't even in the ballpark, and the little hope I had dimmed. Several hours later, the band closed with no on-frequency operation.

Friday afternoon operation on 10 and 15 meters captured stations in Canada and the Caribbean, but the principal quarry remained split and the pile-ups a hundred deep. I played with running the VFO back and forth between his transmit frequency and receive range, but even if he heard me, could I return to the same frequency closely enough for him to copy my report? Probably not. Time was running out. The expedition was leaving the island on Sunday. Saturday and Sunday were travel days and that could not be altered. Operation while in motion was impossible for several reasons. That left Saturday night and Sunday morning. I wasn't sure it was worth the effort. The odds seemed so small.

Saturday evening brought only J37AH and an earful of the continuing melee around HK0TU. I couldn't blame him for not working his own frequency. The cacophony was painful. Penetration was impossible.

Sunday morning dawned clear and crisp--a pleasant day for driving. The sand in the glass was almost gone. While the family caught breakfast next door to the motel, I made one last try to catch HK0TU. There they were on 20, split as usual. The FT-7 VFO spun back and forth to no avail. Then it happened: "North America stand-by. I will now take South and Central Americans on my own frequency. No North Americans please."

What to do? I always obey DX station's instructions, because to do otherwise leads to chaos. But this was a unique situation. In a flash I had made the decision and pressed the PTT. One word radiated out into the ionosphere: "QRP!"

"The QRP station please go ahead." My heart was in my throat as I keyed up again. "This is WB4BBH QRP mobile. Please forgive me, I am in North America and will stand-by until you're done with South and Central America, but I cannot work split and am QRP mobile. I couldn't work you any other way." Would he acknowledge me after I violated his instructions? Was it even me he was calling?

"WB4BBH QRP mobile this is HK0TU. No problem. You are 57 on Malpelo Island. How much power are you running?" My whole body tingled with excitement as I gave him his 59 report and a quick run-down on the equipment. I did it! No linear. No beam. Not even a second VFO. I did it!

I didn't work another station that entire trip/ Somehow it seemed inappropriate. As we approached Miami on the return leg, K4CEF came on the repeater and asked if I got him. My answer as a nonchalant "of course". The club's response was to give me their "South Florida DX Association DX Hog of the Year" award at the annual banquet the following February. The real prize, though, is the HK0TU card on the wall and the memory of the most thrilling experience I've ever had as an amateur radio operator.

The QRP Quarterly

RECIPROCAL OPERATING UPDATED

The FCC on May 24 issued its latest list of countries with which the United States has reciprocal Amateur Radio operating agreements; copies of the list are available from ARRL for an SASE.

The FCC notes that aliens seeking such permits should obtain and complete FCC form 610-A (also available from ARRL), then return the form along with a photocopy of the applicant's Amateur Radio license to the FCC, PO Box 1020, Gettysburg PA 17326. Special provisions apply to Canadians, whose reciprocal privileges are automatic; no paperwork is required.

Operator privileges are those authorized by the alien permittee's own government but do not exceed those of the FCC Amateur Extra Class operator.

Reciprocal operators sign W1/their own call sign (for example), except Canadians are required to sign their own VE call sign/W1 (for example).

United States citizens are not eligible for an FCC-issued reciprocal operating permit, even if they hold dual citizenship in another country. Alien Amateur Radio operators who "will be in the United States for extended periods of time are encouraged to obtain an FCC amateur service license."

An alien holding an FCC license is not eligible for a reciprocal operating permit; his FCC license supersedes any FCC-issued reciprocal operating permit held.

The ARRL Lette

UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA
APO NEW YORK 09852

16 April 1991

SUBJECT: Letter of Appreciation

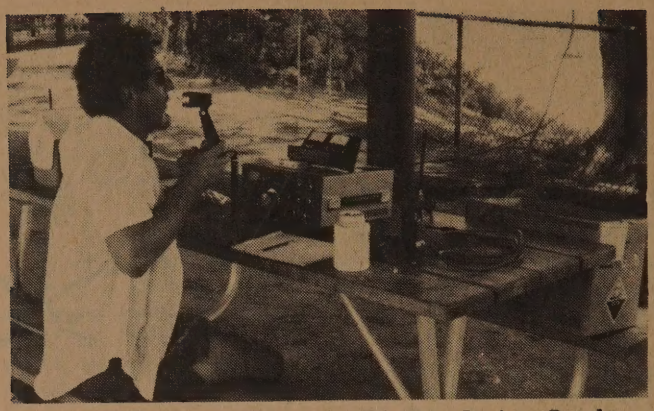
Chief, Army MARS
HQ US Army Information Systems Command
ATTN: AS-OPS-OA
Fort Huachuca, AZ 85613-5000

Please extend my sincere appreciation to your Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) operators for a job well done. The dedication and unswerving devotion of the thousands of MARS volunteer operators were outstanding. Their tireless and unselfish efforts contributed significantly to the morale of the hundreds of thousands of soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines participating in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Especially appreciated were the many holiday hours the MARS operators gave up so the troops in the field could call or send messages home. The many highly favorable comments we have received attest to the importance of this service.

Again, on behalf of all the troops serving in the desert, thank you for a job well done. You can be justly proud of your contribution to Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

H. Norman Schwarzkopf
General, U. S. Army



CQ FD CQ FD CQ FD, this is KD4EC, Jupiter Beach, Florida. Using a vertical on the beach did wonders,John said. This photo by WA4MAG was taken last year not this. How did your club do this year. Send in scores to ARRL ASAP..

From Front page Fox Hunt

Off to our left a ghostly figure comes into view, slowly changing from wispy nothingness into Norm, K3HNW. By golly, Murphy must be sleeping! The fog is lifting.

With pulses quickening, we check the time. . . 7:25 P.M. Only five more minutes until the fox begins his thirty second howl. Recheck the trusty PMR-8 receiver. Yep, still on 28.888 Mcs, the N.P.A.R.C. (North Penn Amateur Radio Club) fox frequency. Map, ruler, pencils, all is in readiness as the now quiet Pennsylvania countryside is. suddenly filled by the sounds of twenty-three mobile receivers spewing forth the tone modulated twenty-five watt carrier of "Double Headed Jonesy," W3DHJ. . ., THE FOX.

Almost simultaneously, twenty-three loop antennas are rotated for maximum signal and a "bearing" is drawn on twenty-three maps.

The receivers become quiet as twenty-three cars zoom off in almost as many directions, each presumably heading for the "best" spot to take bearing number two, occurring a short fifteen minutes from now.

Down Stump Hollow we fly, being observant of the twenty-five MPH speed limit(heh-heh). A quick turn onto Route 73 (yes, it really is Route 73) where the speed limit is a respectable fifty MPH. Jerry should get his speedometer fixed as it indicates seventy MPH! Slowing down to miss hitting a skunk, we turn onto Hilltop Lane and almost sliiiiiide to a stop at the crest of the hill, ready for the next transmission which will occur in only. . . oops! . . . eleven minutes. I guess we are a bit excited! Never mind. The fox transmits, we mark our bearing, and decide to head south for our third and final bearing.

Fifteen minutes later we add the third line to the map and bingo, the fox is pinpointed . . . plus or minus a few miles, that is.

Boy are we good. The fox is located in or near the town of Ft. Washington (we think). Smiling confidently, we head towards town. But exactly where? Perhaps the state park . . . nah, it's closed. The train station? Sure. Lots of room and always cars parked in the lot which could help conceal the location. Three minutes before the fox transmits, we arrive at Station 59. Confidently we don our "cans" (headphones to you newcomers), adjust the volume on our "State-of-the-Art" snoopers (a coax loop to a diode detector feeding a three stage audio amplifier of 2N129s . . . or were they CK722s?) Listen! There's the fox. Gosh, he's a bit weak. Should be about S9 here at the station. Funny, the signal peaks in the direction of the park. But the park is closed. Oh no. We realize our blunder. The mile long access road to the park entrance gate is open and chock-full of Pennsylvania woods. A perfect place to hide.

Back into the car, we leave the train station like Sterling Moss (substitute Mario Andretti for you younger types). Reaching the park access road entrance, we sliiiiiide to a stop, jump out, and are met by Dave, K3HLN, and Roland, W3EWE. So, here's the four of us. All wearing cans, carrying strange looking electronic equipment (our snoopers), and each of us with a vinyl plastic *Tung-Sol Tubes* shirt pocket protector full of tuning sticks and a slide rule (battery-less calculator). Flashlights at the ready, we trudge off in search of the fox. After five minutes of searching, we spot the car hidden in the bushes. Ah ha! We four musketeers, united in a single quest, thrust our probing beams of light into the dark confines of the vehicle. Well, we must have looked like four beings from the planet Mongo as we unwittingly found the wrong car. The blushing shriek of terror from the young lady put an unceremonious end to our evenings activity, not to mention the effect it had on her date.

Suddenly our ears perked up as the fox announced over our snoopers that he had been found. We left the park to meet the other hunters at the Hofbräu House for 'burgers and beer (Pepsi for me as I was only 17) and to hear the tale of conquest from Herb, W3BPM. Of course our story was received with much amusement.

No, we didn't win. But there's another fox hunt next month.

Tally Ho !

73 . . . John
W4KYL ex-K3OWZ

power measurements, the breakdown by frequency bands was as follows:

3.5	7	14	18	21	28	50	144	Band
16	39	66	1	31	44	1	1	Stns

The Amateur Power Project, conducted by the FCC's Field Operations Bureau, has not yet been commented on by the Commission's Private Radio Bureau.

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—73, Editor